

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method, comprising:
2 detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes a print medium in an
3 envelope or other packaging;
4 accessing weight data for the print medium and the packaging;
5 computing the weight of the parcel;
6 accessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and
7 computing postage for the parcel.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the print medium comprises a sheet
2 print medium and accessing weight data comprises accessing data representing the
3 thickness of each sheet of the print medium and the weight of each sheet of the
4 print medium.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein accessing weight data further
2 comprises accessing data representing a number of folds of the sheet print medium.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 detecting a metal binder in the parcel; and
3 accessing weight data for the metal binder.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising applying the postage to the
2 packaging.

1 6. A method, comprising:
2 accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;
3 accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types
4 of envelopes;

5 detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an
6 envelope;
7 computing the weight of the parcel; and
8 computing postage for the parcel.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
2 accessing weight data for different types of metal binders; and
3 detecting at least one type of metal binder in the parcel.

1 8. The method of Claim 6, further comprising applying the postage to the
2 envelope.

1 9. A method, comprising:
2 accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;;
3 detecting the size a parcel that includes one type of print media in an
4 envelope;
5 accessing weight data for the print media and the envelope;
6 computing the weight of the parcel; and
7 computing postage for the parcel.

1 10. A method, comprising:
2 accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;
3 accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types
4 of envelopes;
5 detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an
6 envelope;
7 scanning the parcel to determine its planar size;
8 computing the weight of the parcel based on the thickness and size of the
9 parcel; and
10 computing postage for the parcel.

1 11. A postage computing system, comprising:
2 a thickness gauge positioned to measure the thickness of a parcel;
3 a postage meter positioned to apply postage to the parcel; and

4 a computer electronically connected to the thickness gauge and the postage
5 meter, the computer configured to access weight data for parcel media and
6 packaging, compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from
7 the thickness gauge, access postal rates according to parcel weight, and compute
8 postage for the parcel.

1 12. A postage computing system, comprising:
2 a thickness gauge positioned to measure the thickness of a parcel;
3 a postage meter positioned to apply postage to the parcel; and
4 a computer electronically connected to the thickness gauge and the postage
5 meter, the computer configured to access weight data for parcel media and
6 packaging, compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from
7 the thickness gauge, access postal rates according to parcel weight, compute
8 postage for the parcel and transmit the postage to the postage meter.

1 13. The system of Claim 12, further comprising a metal detector
2 electronically connected to the computer, the metal detector positioned to detect
3 metal in the parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to access
4 weight data for metal binders and compute the weight of the parcel based on
5 thickness data received from the thickness gauge and metal data received from the
6 metal detector.

1 14. The system of Claim 12, further comprising a scanner electronically
2 connected to the computer, the scanner positioned to detect the planar size of the
3 parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to compute the weight of
4 the parcel based on thickness data received from the thickness gauge and size data
5 received from the scanner.

1 15. A computer program product for computing postage, the product
2 comprising a computer useable medium having machine readable instructions
3 thereon for:
4 receiving data representing the thickness of a parcel;

5 accessing weight data for parcel media and packaging;
6 computing the weight of the parcel;
7 accessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and
8 computing postage for the parcel.

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